MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The matter is still under investigation.

Free pass applications in the Forest Department.

61. *MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether stamp duty is levied for free pass applications in the Forest Department:

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the negative, whether the Government are aware that in the Quilon Forest Division, the levy of stamp duty is being insisted upon by the Divisional Forest Officer there; and

(*c*) whether the Conservator of Forests has verified this fact?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Stamp duty is levied on free pass applications only in such cases where the applicant for the pass happens to be merely the purchaser of the timber belonging to the registry-holder. But in all other cases where the applicant is the original registry-holder and when he applies for pass for removal of timber, etc., from his own holding, no stamp duty is levied.

(*b*) *Vide* answer to part (*a*).

(*c*) Since the Divisional Forest Officer himself has reported that stamp duty is levied in certain cases only in pursuance of G. O. No. 4399/F. & M. R./434 of 1919, dated the 6th November 1919, no verification of the fact is called for.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether any distinction is made in the department in the various Forest Divisions in regard to levy of stamp duty for applications for free passes?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): No distinction is made.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the allegation contained in part (*b*) of the question was pointedly referred to the Conservator by the Government? That is, I want to know whether the Conservator was asked by Government whether it was a fact that there was levying of stamp duty by the D. F. O., Quilon.

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): It was not necessary to make any reference. In some cases, stamp duty is levied.

MR. E. V KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Is the stamp duty levied in respect of applications for trees on registered holdings?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): In the case of purchasers of timber from registered holders, stamp duty is realised.

Aruvikara trace.

62. *MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the distance of the Aruvikara trace from Nedumangad town to Aruvikara Water Works construction; and

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